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**Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

# Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

**Report of the Secretary-General**

## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of the resolution.

## II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/198

### A. Arrangements for the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat

2. Further to the decision of the Conference of the Parties to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Convention secretariat at Bonn,[1] the Convention secretariat negotiated and signed a headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany and the Secretary-General on 18 August 1998. The Headquarters Agreement will come into force upon ratification by the German Parliament and adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

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## B. Global Mechanism

3. In paragraph 5 of resolution 52/198, the General Assembly invited the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as the lead organization housing the Global Mechanism, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. In that connection, IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank have created a Facilitation Committee, the purpose of which is to further such cooperation.

## C. Additional regional implementation annex

4. In paragraph 6 of resolution 52/198, the Assembly invited the Conference of the Parties to facilitate the elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the eastern and central European region to be launched at the second session of the Conference of the Parties. In paragraph 12 of the draft annotated agenda for the second session of the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(2)/1 and Corr.1) it is anticipated that the Conference of the Parties may allocate to the Committee of the Whole an item on the possible elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex.

## D. Action by States

5. In paragraph 13 of resolution 52/198, the General Assembly called upon all countries that were not parties to the Convention to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention.

6. As at 18 October 1998, instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession had been deposited by the following 142 States and one regional economic integration organization: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the European Community.

## III. Arrangements for the second session of the Conference of the Parties

7. The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of resolution 52/198, welcomed with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Senegal to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998.

8. The Convention secretariat conducted discussions with the Government of Senegal concerning the arrangements for the second session of the Conference, and signed a host agreement with that Government on 1 September 1998.

9. The draft annotated agenda for the second session of the Conference of the Parties is contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/1 and Corr.1.

## IV. Action requested of the General Assembly

10. By paragraph 17 of resolution 52/198, the General Assembly decided to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 the sessions of the conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium.

11. In its decision 4/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties requested the Assembly, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States, including those which are on the list of the least developed countries, that were parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the regular budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage with the United Nations approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 3/COP.1, on administrative and support arrangements. In that decision, the Conference had accepted arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General for administrative support to the Convention secretariat (see A/AC.241/44 and A/AC.241/55 and Add.1-3).

12. The Secretary-General hereby conveys to the Assembly the above-mentioned request of the Conference of the Parties and invites the General Assembly to take further action thereon at its fifty-third session. The General Assembly may accordingly wish to consider at its fifty-fourth session including the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for 2000–2001 in the calendar of conferences and meetings for that biennium.

*Notes*

[1] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 5/COP.1.